

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

March 10, 2011

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on March 3, 2011 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending March 9, 2011 in the amount of \$ 241,398.92 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of March 3 – March 9, 2011
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from January 26 – March 8, 2011

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Case  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of **\$ 828,201.77** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

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6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

**Ron Nolland, 47 Couch Street** said I'm not even sure if you're going to be talking about this, this evening, or not I'm here about the Stone Barracks and I am also Chairman of the Zoning Board for the City of Plattsburgh.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said to answer your question there is nothing on the agenda for a resolution regarding the Stone Barracks.

**Ron Nolland, 47 Couch Street** said I'd like to discuss that just for a second. As Chairman of the Zoning Board we were privy to a presentation by Mark Barie regarding the developer's concept of the project, I believe it went to the Planning Board, and I'm a little concerned that the Council would in anyway formalize an opinion about this development project at this point. You have, albeit not paid, voluntary members of 2 organizations the Planning Board and the Zoning Board that you entrust to be politically unbiased and unaffected by any comments and we've had past Mayor's try to influence us we don't do that. But more importantly you hire us to watch for the good of the community and we take in to account the fact that the community needs protection and enhancement. We've worked very closely as an example, even though it's falling apart, with Five Guys to help them get developed. We met with them and the Planning Board we are not by any means anti-development. But what we have is a simple small drawing showing 60 apartments, I believe, and a bunch of paving and a concept in these sort of loose terms about 6 months to do this and what groups will do that. I think it so early in the process to even think about in any way supporting any concept out there until we understand what it is number one and number two technically this is going to be a type 1 action coordinated review by the Planning Board and it will probably be the Planning Board is the lead agency. That involves discussion by and comment by all involved agencies. I assume that the Council could call themselves an involved agency just like Shippo, Planning Board, Zoning Board everybody has their time to comment. My concern is that we put out something that; A - the plan is very high density and I'm not sure necessarily appropriate. There was a meeting I think with 35 people or whatever it was; I did not on purpose attend that because as a Zoning Board member and Chairman everything that I do to make any decisions about these is supposed to be based on information I get at Public Hearings according to Public Meeting Law. So I did not attend and I think that may have been an issue for many of us public servants, which we are, on Zoning and Planning not attending that to make sure that we were unbiased as this project unfolds or whatever project happens. So I guess my whole point in coming here is just to say this is way early in the process to even have a vote about whether or not you are going to make a comment about this. I think it might

be very appropriate for the Council to show support once the project has had the review of the Zoning and Planning Board and all the other involved agencies. But I would just ask that you wait until that time and then if you do support whatever project we seem to coordinate that works and make sure that protects the Barracks, make sure that it protects the interests of everybody including development in the city then I think that would be an appropriate time.

**Carol Klepper, 17 Couch Street** said I have been a long resident and I'm not against development but I think its clear that if the Council was to speak at this point I don't know that its fair that the community at wide to make a conscious decision because the plan is in such a preliminary stage. And also there are other factors involved there's no significant historical structure and there is a larger picture involved with geo tourism and the marketing of that and the entire 12 acre parcel could be eligible for some very positive impact economically for the community. So I think given that I'm not opposed and I don't think anybody is opposed to development. And nobody I think in this room or in the community would say that we wouldn't need more rental properties or condominiums but this particular site is unique and I think that the community at wide and the counties at wide and the whole region is going to be long term we are going to be affected by whatever the city and the community residents make as a decision as a collective body. And I think that the community deserves the right to allow enough time to try to cement something that would be beneficial to everybody that lives not only in the City of Plattsburgh but in the Town of Plattsburgh, in the counties of Essex and surrounding communities and the entire state. And I encourage people to go on the website to the Lakes to Locks programs and go in to the geo tourism program that is in place and think of long term commitments not just short tax dollars.

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## 7. OTHER ITEMS:

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to advertise for sealed bid for PMLD BID NO. 2011-3-2 "Sale of Salvaged & Scrap Substation Transformer." Bid Opening Date: April 12, 2011 at 11:00 am.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to advertise for sealed bid for PMLD BID NO. 2011-3-3 "Sale of Salvaged & Scrap Substation Switchgear." Bid Opening Date: April 12, 2011 at 11:00 am.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**C. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a modification of the agreement with CDM and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement to perform additional services (WPCP Headworks Project) for the estimated additional cost of \$75,000. This project will be funded from Capital Project (H8130.54).

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau  
Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** said what exactly is Capital Project H8130.54, is that specifically for the Water Pollution Control Plant or something different.

**Environmental Manager Jonathan Ruff** it's for the Water Pollution Control Plant Headworks project.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**D. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor be authorized to sign the agreement with CHA to perform the necessary design work at the Water Filtration Plant in the amount of \$89,500.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Jackson  
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**E. MOTION TO CORRECT RESOLUTION F** from the December 28, 2010 meeting from "to reclassify Police Lieutenant salary from Grade 8, Steps 7 and 9, to Grade 9, Step 9 and 11 respectively" to "to reclassify Police Lieutenant salary from Grade 8, Steps 8 and 9, to Grade 9, Step 10 and 11 respectively."

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case  
Discussion:

**Mayor Kasprzak** said are we correct on this?

**Councilor Calnon** said yes.

**Councilor Carpenter** said this is pretty much what we agreed to at the beginning but when we found out that the steps were different then what we thought that's why we changed it.

**Councilor Calnon** said yes that's correct.

**Councilor Tiffer** said this doesn't have any affect on the budget correct or was it already factored in.

**Councilor Calnon** said no it was not factored in. Actually Richard asked that question last week and I told him that I was confident that the police budget would be able to absorb the change it's not a major change anyway. I don't know exactly what it is.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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## **8. TRAVEL REQUEST:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Fire Chief Paul Williams to attend the "New York State Career Chiefs Meeting" in Elmira, NY on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The cost will not exceed \$350.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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## **9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

1. Request from City Clerk Keith Herkalo for approval of 2011 Street Drives.
2. Request from Apostles for Life to use 4 parking spaces in front of 66 Brinkerhoff Street, Friday, April 22, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a prayer service with approximately 200 pedestrians.

**Councilor Tiffer** said why specifically do the Apostles for Life have to use those 4 parking spots. Has it been suggested that they some other like use Trinity Park.

**Councilor Calnon** said they want to be in front of Planned Parenthood.

**Councilor Tiffer** said well I know the answer.

**Councilor Calnon** said they will probably be here next week and there probably will be quite a bit of

discussion about it.

**Councilor Carpenter** said we could ask someone to be here just in case we have questions, a representative.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said Beth will reach out.

3. The Office of Community Development requests that the City of Plattsburgh supports the grant application to procure \$500,000 in funding through its NY Main Street Program application for main street/downtown revitalization efforts; and that the Common Council authorizes the Mayor to sign and submit said 2011 NY Main Street grant application.
4. The Office of Community Development requests that that the City of Plattsburgh supports the NY Main Street Program application for main street/downtown revitalization efforts and will make available building improvement and housing rehabilitation funds to match the Main Street program funds as needed.

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#### 10. NEW BUSINESS:

**Councilor Jackson** said I'm happy to see that we have 10 openings for street drives and we have 10 different organizations so I'm glad there's no duplication and it gives everybody a fare shot at raising some funds.

**Councilor Tiffer** said **Tim Carpenter, Jon Ruff** and **I** went on a field trip to the Water Filtration Plant. It was informative we got to see some of the damage that is occurring to the buildings and just wanted to let the rest of the Councilors know that it was insightful.

**Councilor Rabideau** said in the past Chris has mentioned the great job Public Works had done. This storm s probably was the storm of many many years and anybody who cleans their own driveways and their own sidewalks knows that it was a challenge as a homeowner and quite a challenge I'm sure for Public Works. And as we noticed all of our activities such as garbage collection has continued on schedule. I think they did a great job going down the streets several times because all of us know we had to keep going back, but, are streets are clean. I mean you had to go back out there and redo the end of your driveway but the important part is the streets were clean and it prevents the accidents and the continual trips of our plows up and down the streets were there and I know Chris in the past has mentioned it and I'm glad you did. I know I am liaison to that department and thought it should've been in the past but this was exceptional this time with this storm. I haven't seen a storm like this in a long time and I'm sure many of us haven't but great job Public Works and all the departments that are involved with essential services they were there for us.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said it was certainly a challenge, George and I never even shared I don't know what percentage of the issues and problems and challenges that Mike and our Police, Fire, MLD, everybody. It was a storm of whether it's the century or the decade or whatever you want to say but it certainly was the storm of the year. And what the people don't understand is the public at times they have high expectations on these things and we've done these things for years. I got irritated Monday when I was here and there was a

state of emergency declared and someone called wondering if their garbage was going to be picked up. That question didn't please me because of how hard everybody was working and the good things that we did and I just think we did an outstanding job.

**Councilor Rabideau** said I think that Mike is here. We utilize some of the people from our garbage details into the snow plow and snow removal because we need to have wing people watching.

**Superintendent of Public Works Mike Brodi** said due to the intensity of the storm we suspended garbage for Monday and did a double run on Tuesday. I must have gotten a 100 phone calls at the shop asking if garbage would be picked up and we said we are going to defer it to Tuesday.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said the other thing that Mike said in an article which people don't understand is we have 560 or 570 fire hydrants that need to be addressed as soon as possible after any storm let alone something like this and we're going around doing double runs picking up garbage. This is the same department people should appreciate their efforts. I think most of the people in the community do but those are things people don't know they do.

**Councilor Rabideau** said another thing is if our streets aren't clean the fire trucks will have a hard time. I mean you are talking essential emergency services in this city you realize what's essential to this city when you have a storm like this and what's not essential to the city and you begin to appreciate those departments more and I do.

**Councilor Carpenter** said I got two comments. One is along that same lines, we can down just about everything but we can't close down our snow removal guys those guys come in it doesn't matter. Library's closed; school's closed all that stuff these guys got to work it just doesn't matter. I got a lot of respect for them I think they do a great job. One other comment, Mr. Nolland I'm glad you came in. Personally, I wouldn't want to make a decision based on that without hearing from the experts. What you say carries a lot of weight to me because you belong to a group that we entrust the future development of our city in to. So anytime you want to come in and tell us what's going on or how your board feels or whatever, please come in. I'm very glad you came in.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said the Adirondack Builder's Association Home Show is this weekend, Saturday and Sunday at the Crete Center from 10 to 4. With the storm and also soccer out there it was quite challenging to move all that snow and get ready out there and the Home Show is sold out for the first time in many years which is a good sign on many levels. But our guys, Mike, Recreation and a lot of folks really worked hard to clear the parking lots and the entrance and everything else there, another thing that we really didn't plan on having to do but we did. That took an all day plus effort there too. Just so you know if you have a chance to scoot out there it's a bunch of good people out there.

**Councilor Jackson** said you mentioned it during the work session, but, I think it would be nice for the public to know that the half marathon has maxed out its registration. So there are 1000 registrants down which is double the size of last year's half marathon so it is growing.

**Mayor Kasprzak** said another thing that I ran into yesterday just along those lines for the Council members that you may end up hearing about it. Steve and his staff reached out to all our churches in the area and also a

letter will be going out in our MLD bills explaining the dates and the times because there are cross streets that will be busy with runners and its just on that Sunday and its Palm Sunday.

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:55 pm**